Narrative Summary – December 2010

The average temperature for December 2010 was warmer than normal, averaging 33.6°F, 1.9° above normal (31.7°F). The warmest December (1957) averaged 38.5°F, while the coldest (1985) averaged 21.0°F. The following temperature records were established during December 2010:

Date	Category	New Record	Old Record	Year
12	High Minimum	59	57	1999 (and other years)

Precipitation for December 2010 totaled 1.82 inches, 164% of normal (1.11 inches). The wettest December (1996) received 3.69 inches, and the driest (1999) received 0.07 inch. Snowfall for December totaled 7.7 inches, compared to a normal of 5.8 inches. The snowiest December on record (1996) received 22.6 inches.

The average wind speed for December 2010 was 7.0 miles per hour (mph), which was 0.9 mph above normal (6.1 mph). The windiest December on record (1968) averaged 8.3 mph, while the December with the lightest winds (1985) averaged 3.3 mph. The peak gust for December 2010 was 50 mph on December 14.

Calendar year 2010 averaged 53.9°F, which was slightly above normal (53.6°F). The warmest years (1992 and 1998) averaged 56.4°F, while the coolest year (1985) averaged 49.6°F. The hottest temperature during 2010 was 105°F on July 9. The coldest temperature was -8°F on November 24. Precipitation for 2010 totaled 10.19 inches, 146% of normal (6.98 inches). This makes 2010 the fifth wettest year on record and only the fifth time HMS has recorded over ten inches. The wettest year (1995) received 12.31 inches, while the driest (1976) received 2.99 inches. Calendar year 2010 snowfall totaled 15.9 inches, compared to a normal of 15.4 inches.

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet.
Address: http://hms.pnl.gov/

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Note: The data in this summary pertains specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.